

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082971
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082971

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT ISLAMABAD 3552 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 12 APR.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3552

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT?

1. REPORTS FROM KARACHI JOURNALISTS ALLEGE THAT
SETTLEMENT OF POLITICAL CRISIS HAS BEEN REACHED AND
AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS TERMS MAY BE IMMINENT.
ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, BHUTTO WILL STEP DOWN,
AND PERHAPS LEAVE THE COUNTRY. A POSSIBLE DESTINATION
UNDER CONSIDERATION IS SAID TO BE THE U.S.

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PAGE 02 STATE 082971

2. IT IS NOW THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IN PAKISTAN
AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF VERIFYING THESE REPORTS. WE
KNOW ONLY THAT BHUTTO REMAINED IN LAHORE TODAY AND
THAT SOME OF HIS CLOSEST POLITICAL ADVISERS WERE THERE
WITH HIM. JOURNALIST SOURCES ASSERT THAT THE SETTLEMENT
HAS BEEN IMPOSED BY THE ARMY CORPS COMMANDERS IN LAHORE
AND KARACHI, WITH ACQUIESCENCE OF MORE SENIOR OFFICERS,

AND THAT TERMS OF SETTLEMENT MAY PROVIDE FOR CIVILIAN
GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN A MILITARY REGIME.

3. WE WILL REPORT SOONEST IN THE MORNING IF WE ARE ABLE
TO VERIFY ANY OF FOREGOING. BYROADE

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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